Children's Services

Annual Report
2016-17

Alberta
Government

Note to Readers:

Copies of the annual report are available
on the Children's Services website:

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Children's Services

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Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. The Public Accounts consists of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of all 21 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains ministers' accountability statements and the consolidated financial statements of the province and *Measuring Up* report, which compares the actual performance results to the desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

On January 19, 2017, the government announced new ministry structures. The 2016-17 ministry annual report and financial statements have been prepared based on the new ministry structures of Children's Services and Community and Social Services.

Please note that the 2016-19 Human Services Business Plan's Key Strategies, Performance Measures, and Performance Indicators have been transitioned to the ministries of Community and Social Services, Children's Services, Labour and Justice and Solicitor General.

The Key Strategies, Performance Measures, and Performance Indicators within this Annual Report have been adjusted to show sequential numbering. Refer to *Appendix Three: Cross-Reference Table* for a summary table regarding these adjustments.

The Ministry of Children's Services is comprised of programs formerly in the Ministry of Human Services, specifically in the areas of Child Intervention and Child Care, Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth and Indigenous and Community Connections.

The annual report of the Ministry of Children's Services contains the minister's accountability statement, the audited financial statements of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. This ministry annual report also includes:

- other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*, either as separate reports or as a part of the financial statements, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report; and
- financial information related to the Child Resources Rebate Trust Fund as disclosed in the ministry's financial statements.

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ending March 31, 2017, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at June 5, 2017 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Minister's Signature *(original signed by)*

Honourable Danielle Larivee
Minister of Children's Services
June 5, 2017

Message from the Minister

I am deeply honoured to serve as Minister of Children's Services and to present our ministry's 2016-17 annual report. In January 2017, our government created a dedicated ministry to focus on the well-being of children and youth in Alberta. As a former front-line worker, this work is close to my heart. A ministry focused on supporting children and youth allows us to improve the supports we provide for young people and their families. But more than that, our work ensures strong, often life-changing supports for Alberta's youngest citizens and the families who love them.

This year, Children's Services launched 22 Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Centres based on a maximum of $25/day care and designed to address gaps in the current child care system. While this work was getting underway, we continued to ensure access to 117,000 child care spaces for more than 88,000 of Alberta's youngest residents and support many lower income families with a child care subsidy that has one of the highest eligibility thresholds in Canada.

Every child deserves a loving home where they can grow up strong and healthy. And as children do not exist separate and apart from their families, helping children means helping families. To that end, we continued to support funding for Parent Link Centres; the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program; the Home Visitation program; and invested in peer-to-peer family mental health support networks that are set to open in 2017.

Another key focus for Children's Services this year has been the work to establish the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention. Our goal with this all-party panel is to support families and children by improving the child death review process and strengthening Alberta's child intervention system as a whole. During Phase 1, the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention reviewed expert presentations from stakeholders across Alberta, and engaged in an unprecedented, open and collaborative conversation about how to strengthen Alberta's child death review process.

In Phase 2, the panel will review legislation, policies, current practices, literature, relevant data, and past recommendations, including those from the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the Auditor General of Alberta. It will also solicit feedback from subject matter experts, Albertans with lived experience and front-line staff.

I am proud of my ministry's achievements during the past year, as we have supported Albertans in need of early intervention and prevention services; Albertans who need child care; and Albertans who need extra help with child-related expenses. But, most of all, I am looking forward to the work we have planned for the future. Our government has made it clear that our focus is about making lives better for Albertans. For our part, Children's Services is dedicated to serving children – making sure they are protected and have the supports they need to grow into healthy adults. At Children's Services, this work is our passion. With our continued devotion and caring, we truly can make a difference in the lives of our youngest Albertans.

Minister's Signature *(original signed by)*

Honourable Danielle Larivee
Minister of Children's Services
June 5, 2017

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Children's Services includes:

- The Department of Children's Services
- Child and Youth Services Council for Quality Assurance
- Child Care Licensing Appeal Panel
- Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Appeal Panel

The executives of the individual entities within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for their respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and strategic plan, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Children's Services. Under the direction of the minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, including financial statements and performance results. The financial statements and performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliability – information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source of data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandability – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.

- Comparability – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Completeness – outcomes, performance, performance measures and related targets match those included in Budget 2016.

As deputy minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under provincial administration;
- provide Executive Council, the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Children's Services the information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and
- facilitate the preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act.*

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives of the individual entities within the ministry.

Deputy Minister's Signature *(original signed by)*

Darlene Bouwsema
Deputy Minister of Children's Services
June 5, 2017

Results Analysis

Ministry Overview

The Department

On January 19, 2017, the government announced new ministry structures. The 2016-17 ministry annual report and financial statements for Children's Services have been prepared based on the new ministry structure.

The Department of Children's Services currently consists of the areas described below.

Deputy Minister's Office

Along with providing advice and support to the Minister, the Deputy Minister's office provides the link between the Minister's office and the department. This ensures the work of the department meets the goals and objectives outlined in the business plan and the priorities provided to the Minister by the Premier. The Deputy Minister also supports the Deputy Minister of Executive Council by contributing to policy development, planning and implementation of cross-ministry initiatives, and advocating new approaches and forward-looking views toward the achievement of government-wide goals.

Child Intervention

The Child Intervention division works in partnership with stakeholders and community-based agencies to lead and support programs and services for vulnerable children, youth and families. The division supports the prevention of risk factors and the promotion of protective factors so children can remain at home safely. The division continues to build on prevention and early intervention approaches so that Alberta's children and youth are resilient, protected and grow up in a safe and nurturing environment that encourages the development of lifelong relationships. When children are unable to remain in the family home, work is undertaken collaboratively with parents and extended family to maintain familial, cultural and community connections and to pursue reunification of children with their parents. When efforts to support a child's safety within their biological family are not possible, the Child Intervention program works to find alternative long-term homes for children, often through Private Guardianship and Adoptions. The division continues to implement improvements within the child intervention system, focusing on keeping families together, addressing the conditions that bring children into care and promoting collaborative solutions to support child safety and well-being. The division also leads the ministry in addressing addiction and mental health supports for vulnerable children, youth and families.

In Alberta, children and families receive child intervention services from seven regions across the province and 17 Delegated First Nation Agencies.

Key responsibilities include:

- supporting the delivery of services mandated by the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*; the *Drug-Endangered Children Act*; and the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act*;
- enhancing outcomes for children, youth and families receiving child intervention services through evidence-based practice and collaborative service delivery with agencies and partners;
- developing and maintaining relationships with the Delegated First Nation Agencies and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to support on-reserve child intervention service delivery, and with Métis stakeholders (i.e., the Metis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association) to support the needs of Métis children and families involved with child intervention services;
- providing support and recognition for youth through programs such as the Alberta Mentoring Partnership and the Great Kids Awards;
- supporting the development of prevention-focused policy including suicide prevention and the prevention of child maltreatment;
- partnering with Health, Alberta Health Services and Community and Social Services to improve addictions and mental health supports for all Albertans, paying specific attention to children and youth; and
- providing support for youth who are currently or have been in government care to help with further training or educational programs through the Advancing Futures Bursary program.

Indigenous and Community Connections

The Indigenous and Community Connections division supports the ministry and its partners in taking a holistic perspective towards the needs of Indigenous communities and in building and strengthening relationships across the province. A specific focus is on improving outcomes for Indigenous people in Alberta through cultural understanding, relationship building and strategic leadership.

Key responsibilities include:

- working with key partners and stakeholders to coordinate strategies involving Indigenous people, stakeholders, communities and organizations including the identification of strategic priorities, internal coordination of ministry initiatives, engagement, and the evaluation of overall progress in achieving organizational and community outcomes;
- providing leadership within the ministry for Indigenous and community engagement with people and stakeholders who represent a range of social and community sectors across Alberta; and
- promoting Indigenous cultural awareness throughout the ministry by enhancing understanding within the ministry of Indigenous people and communities.

Strategic Policy and Early Childhood Development

The Strategic Policy and Early Childhood Development division is responsible for prevention and early intervention services, focused on children up to six years of age and their families.

The division supports the delivery of accessible, quality and affordable child care for children up to 12 years of age and oversees the delivery of parenting resources, including Parent Link Centres and Home Visitation programs.

The division is also responsible for the ministry's strategic policy functions by providing strategic guidance for other divisions and cross-ministry partners. The division works to frame and shape ministry policy, legislation and government priorities.

Key responsibilities include:

- licensing and approving child care programs to ensure the safety, well-being and development of children receiving child care;
- promoting Albertans' participation in the workforce for parents with pre-school and school aged children;
- ensuring delivery of quality child care through certification of child care staff and implementing accreditation standards and funding;

- supporting affordable, quality child care by providing funding to lower income families and to support access to child care for children with special needs;
- designing, developing, implementing, evaluating and sustaining community-based prevention and early intervention programs and parenting resources for children up to six years of age and their families, such as Parent Link Centres, Home Visitation and the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, to improve early childhood development and positive parenting outcomes;
- working collaboratively with partners on initiatives relevant to children and families;
- leading strategic policy design, development and coordination for the ministry; and
- providing support to the Child and Family Services Council for Quality Assurance and a key liaison between the department, divisions, minister's office and the council to improve the quality of child intervention services.

Communications

Communications provides planning, advice and support to the Minister and the ministry by providing clear and timely information to the public about the ministry's key initiatives, programs and services. Communications is also responsible for providing advice on specialized writing, social media, website content and product design.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services division is responsible for the ministry's financial management, business services and centralized procurement office.

Key responsibilities include:

- working collaboratively with divisions to support the financial planning and fiscal development of the annual budget and year-end financial reporting for the ministry;
- providing expertise for financial processes, policies, client payments, revenues and fraud investigations to support compliance and accountability;
- providing strategic direction and guidance for corporate procurement and grants and working collaboratively with regional directors and executive management to support an integrated approach;
- providing strategic support for business services, including facilities management and operations, emergency management and emergency social services; and
- ensuring ministry compliance with and providing advice on the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP).

Strategic Knowledge and Technology

The Strategic Knowledge and Technology Office provides leadership and integrated services within the areas of Information Technology, Information Management and Knowledge Mobilization.

Key responsibilities include:

- supporting information management, knowledge mobilization and integration;
- providing secure information, technology services and supports across the ministry;
- ensuring information technology services meet the needs of the ministry;
- managing information as a corporate asset to ensure the needs of the ministry are addressed in a timely and cost-effective manner; and
- supporting the ministry through the use of the Information Sharing Approach and the Knowledge Strategy.

Human Resources

Human Resources works with ministry leadership, employees and other departments to attract, develop and engage the workforce and to support the services of the ministry. It provides excellence in Human Resources programs and services through innovation, leadership, expertise and collaboration.

Legal Services

Legal Services provides a full range of non-litigation legal services, and legislative and related strategic advice to all areas of the ministry.

Key responsibilities include:

- identifying, analyzing and providing advice to business areas on potential legal issues;
- providing strategic and legal advice on program and policy changes to meet legal requirements and legislated timeframes;
- liaising with other Justice and Solicitor General legal teams to provide access to litigation and other legal services; and
- providing legal advice and related support in the development of legislation, regulations and Ministerial Orders.

Risk Update

Strategic risks that affect the ministry's operations and its ability to achieve its outcomes include the current economic downturn and corresponding higher unemployment as a result of the volatility in the natural resource sector. This may lead to, for example, an increased number of children and families living in poverty and higher rates of homelessness. Key ministry social support programs and services may be faced with higher demand, leading to an increase in program spending and creating challenges for key ministry programs.

The economy in Alberta is gradually showing signs of recovery as most sectors are stabilizing or improving. However, unemployment in the province remains high even as Albertans continue to join the labour force. Alberta families will continue to experience the impacts of the economic downturn. However, despite the downturn, the percentages of Albertans and children up to 17 years of age who live in low income families based on the Low-Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT) continues to decline. Moving forward, Children's Services will continue to support families facing poverty by investing in the Alberta Child Benefit and additional preventative supports.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

Financial Results of Operations

Expense by Function:

Ministry Expense is reported under Children's Services.

Revenue:

Ministry revenue was $83.2 million, approximately $21.4 million higher than 2015-16 and $27.9 million higher than Budget 2016.

Compared to 2015-16 Actual

Higher revenues are primarily from the Government of Canada for services provided to on-reserve clients due to increased caseloads, and funding provided to help with care and education of children under 18 years of age who are in the care of the ministry.

Compared to Budget 2016

Higher revenues are primarily due to higher program expense recoveries, increased funding from the Government of Canada for services provided to on-reserve clients due to increased caseloads, and funding provided to help with care and education of children under 18 years of age who are in the care of the ministry.

Expense:

Ministry operational spending was $1.2 billion, an increase of $58.8 million from 2015-16 and $44.1 million higher than Budget 2016.

Compared to 2015-16 Actual

The increase from 2015-16 is primarily attributable to:

- $31.8 million increase in the Child Intervention Program, primarily due to caseload related increases in Foster Care; Supports for Permanency; Child Protection; Family Enhancement; and Support and Financial Assistance programs.
- $9 million increase in Child Care programming primarily due to grants provided to pilot 22 Early Learning and Child Care Centres as a first step towards $25/day child care for Albertans.
- $14.1 million increase in the Child Care Subsidy as caseloads and costs increased, and in Child Care Accreditation as more programs became accredited.
- $4.1 million increase in Early Intervention programming primarily due to grants issued to support mental health specialists for assessments and brief intervention for children coming into care, and the issuance of Child and Family Research grants in 2016-17.

Compared to Budget 2016

Operational expense was $44.1 million higher than Budget 2016, primarily attributable to:

- $35.8 million increase in the Child Intervention Program, primarily due to caseload related increases in Foster Care; Supports for Permanency; Child Protection; Family Enhancement; and Support and Financial Assistance programs.
- $4.4 million increase in Child Care due to higher than anticipated child care and pre-accredited programs being accredited with the corresponding higher funding rates for staff.
- $4.3 million increase in Early Intervention programming due to more supports provided to parents of children 0-6 years at home through Home Visitation program grants issued to support mental health specialists for assessments.

OUTCOME

1

Alberta families and communities thrive through improved supports by strengthening prevention and addressing the root causes of social and economic challenges

Children's Services recognizes the importance of the early years of a child's life in setting a foundation for a strong and healthy future. The ministry continues to focus on investing in programs and services that support children to grow and learn in safe, supportive environments.

The following Key Strategies are the actions Children's Services has identified to support the above Outcome as described in the Human Services 2016-19 Business Plan.

KEY STRATEGY 1.1

Enhance and promote mentoring programs, parenting resources and supports, community-based early childhood services and improve access to quality, affordable child care

Children's Services supports accessible, affordable quality child care options for working and stay-at-home parents with pre-school and school-age children by:

- licensing and inspecting child care programs;
- providing a child care subsidy to eligible lower income families;
- providing funding to support access to child care for children with special needs;
- approving family day homes;
- certifying child care program staff;
- administering child care accreditation funding; and
- providing quality assurance mechanisms to measure consistency of delivery practices, monitor compliance with legislation and ensure appropriate use of grant funding.

The legislative authority for the licensing of child care programs, approval of family day homes and certification of child care staff are established under the *Child Care Licensing Act*.

Children's Services also supports community-based prevention and early intervention programs and parenting resources for children up to six years of age and their families, including Parent Link Centres, Home Visitation and the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, to improve early childhood development and positive parenting outcomes.

Child Care

Affordable and accessible quality child care is a challenge for many Alberta families. In 2016-17, Children's Services invested approximately $300 million in the child care system to: support quality as a growing number of child care programs become accredited; recruit and maintain qualified staff; provide child care subsidies to low income families; and to monitor and respond to child care space pressures. Affordable and accessible quality child care supports job creation, economic growth, poverty reduction, women's equality and positive outcomes for Alberta's children.

In March 2017, there were 2,567 licensed and approved child care programs, an increase of 91 programs since March 2016. Of the active child care programs operating across Alberta, the majority fall into three categories: day care (831), pre-school (687), and out-of-school care (954) programs.

In 2016-17, the ministry reported a total of nearly 117,000 licensed and approved child care spaces, an increase of more than 7,200 spaces from 2015-16. Of these spaces, approximately 105,000 are in licensed programs and nearly 12,000 spaces were in approved family day homes.

Geographically, approximately 43,000 spaces are in Edmonton and 45,000 in Calgary, with nearly 29,000 throughout the rest of Alberta. Greatest demand for spaces is in Calgary, with overall enrolment at 87 per cent, as compared to the provincial average enrolment of 80 per cent.

Early Learning and Child Care Centres

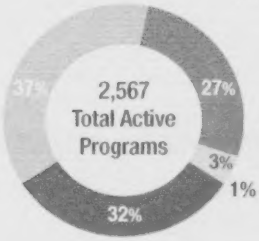
Children's Services is also committed to improving access to affordable, quality, licensed child care and moved forward with piloting $25/day child care at 22 Early Learning Child Care Centres. In 2016-17, the Government of Alberta announced a $10 million investment for improvements to the child care system, piloting 22 Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Centres across Alberta to model a new child care system that focuses on quality, space creation, job creation and affordability, with maximum fees set at $25/day.

Additionally, each ELCC Centre will respond to gaps in the current system by implementing selected improvements, such as extended hours of operation, supports for children with diverse needs, provisions for inclusive child care, supports for on-site professional development and opportunities for parents to communicate whether the program is meeting the needs of their children.

QUICK FACTS

117,000

licensed and approved child care spaces across Alberta – an increase of 7,200 spaces since 2015-16



Number of Active Programs by Program Type

Out-of-School Program	954
Day Care Program	831
Pre-School Program	687
Family Day Home	68
Innovative Child Care Program	22
Group Family Child Care Program	5

Approximately $300 million was invested in the child care system in 2016-17 in support of 2,567 licensed and approved child care programs – an increase of 91 programs since March 2015

Child Care Accreditation

Accreditation standards of excellence are over and above legislated requirements and reflect leading practices in providing high-quality care for families with children attending child care in Alberta.

Accreditation focuses on outcomes related to children, staff, families and the community and helps families choose the best care for their children. Accreditation is available to licensed day care and out-of-school care programs, as well as contracted family day home agencies. Participation in accreditation is voluntary.

On March 31, 2017, approximately 97 per cent of day care programs and family day home agencies, and approximately 88 per cent of out-of-school care programs were participating in the accreditation program.

Accreditation grant funding to child care programs supports the recruitment and retention of qualified child care professionals through wage top-ups paid to approximately 15,000 staff per month, professional development grants (around 2,475 applications annually) and staff attraction incentive funding (approximately 750 applications annually).

Child Care Affordability

In recognition of the high costs associated with child care, the Government of Alberta is making child care more affordable for lower income families.

Alberta's child care subsidy has one of the highest eligibility thresholds in Canada. Families can earn up to $50,000 per year and still qualify for the maximum subsidy; partial subsidies are available depending on family income and the child's age. In addition to child care subsidies, children with special needs may receive support from the Inclusive Child Care Program to attend a licensed day care centre, licensed pre-school or approved family day home. Inclusive child care programs create flexibility to meet the individual needs of children with special needs or disabilities within these child care settings.

In 2016-17, Alberta parents benefitted from subsidies for more than 25,000 children attending regulated child care programs, and almost 4,600 children under the Kin Child Care funding program. The Kin Child Care funding program helps eligible families with the costs of child care provided by a non-custodial relative who does not live in the same home as the child.

The ministry also offers funding through the infant care incentive program, paying a universal grant of $150 per month to licensed day cares and approved family day home programs to offset the relatively higher cost of providing care for infants who are under 18 months of age. In 2016-17, the ministry supported nearly 4,900 infant spaces under this program.

Early Learning Child Care Curriculum Framework

The Play, Participation, and Possibilities: An Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework for Alberta provides guidance for child care educators working in centre-based child care and family day home settings and focuses on the importance of daily care and play-based activities. The framework guides early childhood educators in providing responsive care for children under the age of six and builds common language across early childhood education settings.

In 2016-17, the three-phase pilot roll-out of the Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework was completed in collaboration with researchers from Grant MacEwan University and Mount Royal University. Outcomes of the pilot project include the creation of professional development resources to increase knowledge and skills and support models to inform service delivery. Total participation included 43 licensed child care programs with approximately

200 front-line early childhood educators and administrators and 50 ELCC faculty and community leaders. For more information about the framework, please visit: www.childcareframework.com/play-participation-and-possibilities/.

Getting Ready For Inclusion Today

Getting Ready For Inclusion Today (GRIT) supported implementation of inclusive practices in the 22 new pilot Early Learning Child Care Centres, ensuring that all children can participate fully in programming. GRIT provides the ASaP (Access, Support and Participation) program aimed at increasing the capacity of licensed child care programs to support the inclusion of all children. Through the ASaP program, child care programs participate in an assessment to determine areas for enhancement, and child care teams receive access to training and on-site coaching to increase inclusion practices.

Certification and Educational Qualifications

Professional caregivers play a vital role in the quality of child care children receive.

In Alberta's licensed day care, out-of-school care, and pre-school programs, all staff working directly with children must be certified within six months of employment and must not have unsupervised access to children until certified.

Under the provincial certification process, Children's Services reviews post-secondary educational training in the field of early childhood education to determine eligibility at one of the three levels of certification:

- Child Development Assistant (Child Care Orientation Course or equivalent);
- Child Development Worker (1-year ELCC post-secondary certificate or equivalent); or
- Child Development Supervisor (2-year ELCC post-secondary diploma or equivalent).

During 2016-17, more than 8,500 educational assessments for provincial certification were completed with over 7,000 certificates issued.

The approximate total number of certified staff working in licensed day care, out-of-school care programs and family day homes increased from nearly 14,600 in March 2016 to almost 15,500 in March 2017.

The ministry sponsors the delivery of the Child Care Orientation Course, which may be completed online or through classroom-based instruction. The course is offered in French and English, as well as on-reserve, and completion qualifies individuals for certification as a Child Development Assistant. More than 1,400 individuals working in child care programs completed the Orientation Course in 2016-17.

Parent Link Centres

Parent Link Centres (PLCs) are a provincial network of community-based family resource centres that provide prevention-focused supports to increase families' strengths and minimize the impact of risk factors and to support positive developmental and family wellness outcomes.

In 2016-17, Children's Services invested a total of $21.3 million for 56 Parent Link Centre operational grants. This amount also includes $360,000 for an enhancement to the base budget for the Francophone PLC Network.

Services are available to all parents and caregivers and their children (up to six years of age) and include: early childhood development and parent education programs (including the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program); family support services;

developmental screening; and information and referral to other resources and services in the community to meet family needs.

According to the most recent data (2015-16), Parent Link Centres reported serving more than 100,000 Albertans, representing an increase of 2.2 per cent from the previous year. Approximately 10.5 per cent of participants self-identified as First Nations, Métis or Inuit and 11 per cent as new Canadians (living in Canada fewer than three years).

Of the $21.3 million invested in 2016-17, Children's Services made several investments to support the ongoing implementation of Parent Link Centres to enhance services for families:

- approximately $1 million was invested in PLC Enhancement Grants to support 17 PLCs to increase outreach and targeted developmental activities to address early childhood development in high-needs communities as identified through the Early Development Instrument data;
- in June 2016, a two-day training session was attended by 237 PLC staff in Calgary. The training resulted in enhanced staff knowledge and skills to improve service delivery within PLCs; and
- to support development of Indigenous cultural awareness and competency, in 2016, PLC staff participated in *A Day of Sharing* offered by the Government of Alberta for experiential learning around Indigenous history, and intergenerational trauma. Additionally, the ministry provided a grant to the PLC Network for coaching supports specifically to meet the needs of designated Aboriginal Parent Link Centres.

Triple P-Positive Parenting Program

The Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, delivered by Parent Link Centres throughout the province, is an evidence-based program used internationally with more than 30 years of foundational research that is proven to work across cultures, socio-economic groups and in a variety of family structures. It provides parents with simple and practical strategies to help them confidently manage their children's behaviour, prevent problems from developing and help build strong, healthy relationships.

The most recent survey data available (2015-16) showed that more than 2,000 sessions of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program were offered to more than 6,800 participants.

The program also offers a free online self-directed Triple-P Positive Parenting course for parents and caregivers who may find it challenging to attend in-person parenting sessions, such as those living in rural or remote areas.

For more information, visit the Triple P-Stay Positive website at www.triplep-staypositive.net.

Home Visitation

Alberta's Home Visitation program serves families identified as experiencing challenges that may prevent healthy child development or family wellness. The goal is to support an understanding of child development, improve parenting skills and establish a connection to supports in the community to prevent the need for escalated services.

Home visitors help the family by providing information, supports and referrals and facilitating goal setting. Involvement in the Home Visitation program is voluntary, and referrals are made by public health nurses, social workers, other community professionals, or the family may request services themselves.

In the most recent data (2015-16), 34 Home Visitation programs were provided to approximately 10,500 clients, including nearly 4,500 parents, just over 4,400 children and approximately 1,600 youth and other Albertans.

Approximately 21 per cent of participants self-identified as First Nations, Métis or Inuit, and 26 per cent self-identified as new Canadians (living in Canada fewer than three years).

In 2016-17, the ministry continued to support the Alberta Home Visitation Network Association in providing training, professional development, networking and program implementation supports for Home Visitation programs across the province. This included access to training in family violence prevention and support to implement the family violence prevention screening protocol.

Quality Assurance and Standards and Enhanced Transparency

Children's Services is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of children attending licensed and approved child care programs in Alberta. Specifically, the ministry:

- monitors compliance with provincial licensing, subsidy and child care certification standards;
- conducts evaluations, program reviews and specialized audits to support program improvements and to minimize ministry risk;
- audits child care programs receiving accreditation and subsidy grant funding to ensure the funds are being used for the purposes intended;
- investigates complaints from parents, the public, child care program staff, subsidy assessors and licensing officers;
- collects, analyzes and presents multifaceted program data including caseload, non-compliance and critical incident data;
- identifies meaningful patterns and trends to develop awareness and provide evidence to support program decision making and long-term planning for positive outcomes and continuous improvement of program delivery;
- responds to internal (government) and public requests for data and publishes quarterly inspection data online on the compliance of licensed and approved programs (for results from the last 18-month period, please visit: www.open.alberta.ca/opendata/childcareinformation); and
- provides parents with information about licensed child care programs and contracted family day home agencies online through the ministry's Child Care Lookup, including details about the program, the program's accreditation status and recent inspection results on how closely the program complies with licensing regulations.

Mentorship Supporting Children and Youth

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters Society of Edmonton, Children's Services co-leads the Alberta Mentorship Program (AMP). The AMP is a network of community mentoring agencies, government and youth working together to raise the profile of mentoring so that every child and youth who needs a mentor has access to one. The AMP serves as a hub for mentoring agencies to collaborate and share best practices, allowing agencies to cater to the unique needs of each community.

In 2016-17, the ministries of Children's Services and Education provided the AMP with $335,000 in funding to provide existing mentors with research and training resources, and worked with communities and organizations to develop and enhance mentoring programs. The funding supported the final year of a three-year plan to increase the number of mentors across the province.

Based on the success of the three-year Alberta Mentorship Program plan, the Government of Alberta will support a fourth strategic phase that will span from 2017-20.

> $300,000 in support was provided to the Wood Buffalo Boys and Girls Club in response to the Fort McMurray wildfire, through the Alberta Mentorship Program

To date, the AMP has:

- expanded Indigenous Mentoring Programs to reach 12 school sites in Fort McMurray;
- hosted a national conference attended by more than 300 participants including youth and their mentors in 2016; and
- established the Children and Youth in Care Mentoring Pilot in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary, which supported 170 children and youth in care with quality mentoring to build protective factors, produce positive mental health outcomes, support social connectivity and facilitate academic success. Youth participants who have received mentorship through the pilot program experienced increased confidence, improved communication skills and increased school engagement (i.e., better attendance, on track to graduate and looking at or attending post-secondary).

In 2016, *Mentoring at a Glance: 2016 Alberta Data Reveals Awareness and Trends in Mentoring of Young People* was released. The report delivered mentorship perspectives and experiences along with evidence to support the positive impact and value of investing in mentorship programs across the province. For more information, please visit: www.albertamentors.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Mentoring-at-a-Glance_2016-Alberta-Population-Lab-Survey-Final-Report-April-2017.pdf.

In response to the Fort McMurray wildfire, the ministry received $300,000 in funding to support the Wood Buffalo Boys and Girls Club in their efforts to mentor Indigenous youth, focusing on building resiliency and coping skills.

QUICK FACTS

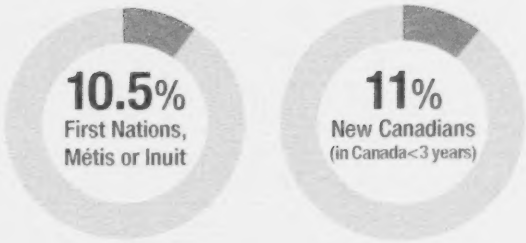
Parent Link Centres (PLCs)

are a provincial network of community-based family resource centres. Services are available to all parents/caregivers and their children up to 6 years of age and include:

- Triple P-Positive Parenting program
- family support services
- developmental screening
- information and referral to other resources and services

$21.3M

in operational grants for 56 PLCs



PLCs served over **100,000** Albertans in 2015-16 – an increase of 2.2% from the previous year

KEY STRATEGY 1.2

Build on preventive approaches and implement reforms in the child intervention system, focusing on keeping families together, addressing the conditions that bring children into care and promoting collaborative solutions to support child safety and well-being

Child Intervention Services Improvements

The ministry continues to enhance and improve child intervention services through evidence-based decision making to inform and support positive long-term outcomes for children. By supporting collaborative partnerships with families, communities and service delivery partners, the ministry is using approaches that focus on supporting families as the primary means of protection.

In 2016-17, child intervention staff responded to approximately 55,000 reports of child maltreatment, neglect and/or abuse. This works out to approximately 4,600 reports each month. Of these 55,000 reports:

- 88 per cent did not open a child intervention file. Instead, families received brief services or were referred or connected to community resources; and
- the remaining 12 per cent led to an open child intervention file – eight per cent were not in care (the child remained in the family home) and four per cent were in care (the child was removed from the home).

Whenever possible, and as long as the child's safety is not at risk, intervention services are provided while the child remains in the family home. When this is not possible, the child or youth may need to be removed from the home and placed in a more stable household while parents work to improve the situation. During 2016-17, on an average month, there were 10,270 children and youth receiving child intervention services with an open case file. Of those, 3,201 children and youth received services at home (not in care), while 7,069 received services away from home (in care). This figure does not include the children who have child intervention involvement at the "initial assessment" stage to determine if formal child intervention services are required.

In 2016-17, the ministry supported approximately 3,580 children to remain with their families and reunited approximately 1,070 children with their families following a short time in care.

Child Intervention Practice Framework

Through collaboration with service delivery partners and community partners, Children's Services continues to implement the Child Intervention Practice Framework (CIPF). The Framework is a set of principles and core elements of leading practice that guide staff in their work with children and families. These principles help support an environment in which family strengths are recognized, children and youth are respected and supported, and the ministry works collaboratively with children, youth and families to find solutions for their safety and well-being needs.

In 2016-17, Children's Services supported the implementation of the CIPF by embedding the CIPF principles across the ministry, including:

- developing a competency profile to identify the skills, knowledge and organizational values required for staff to be successful in their role;
- initiating a review of child intervention operational policy to align policy and practice with the CIPF principles and identifying areas for future enhancement; and
- enhancing education, training and support for staff to strengthen casework practice.

Signs of Safety

Children's Services continues to implement Signs of Safety (SOS) practice across the province. Created in Australia, this evidence-based approach to child intervention practice is focused on enhancing and leveraging the knowledge and skills of front-line workers to more effectively mitigate risk and create safety within families. For more information and a *What is Signs of Safety* informational video please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6WYm4F9mik.

In 2016-17, Children's Services modified the SOS overview course into a two-day introductory course. This Alberta-specific course aims to provide an overview of the principles, disciplines, tools and processes of SOS practice and provide participants with the opportunity to apply SOS practices to case examples. This training has been completed by 85 per cent of caseworkers, 93 per cent of managers and 96 per cent of supervisors working in child intervention across the province. Six Delegated First Nation Agencies also participated in SOS training, including Bigstone, Piikani, Blood Tribe, Stoney, Akamkispatnaw Ohpikihawasowin (AKO) and North Peace.

Knowledge Sharing

In 2016-17, Children's Services offered staff, agency partners and stakeholders the opportunity to participate in learning sessions and other events focused on continuous improvement in policy and front-line service delivery.

Included in these learning opportunities were eight webinar sessions titled *Policy to Practice Learning Series*, on topics such as Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Rights-Based Practice in Child Intervention and Working with First Nations Communities in Planning for their Children. On average, 151 staff registered for these sessions every month.

In August 2016, in partnership with the University of Calgary, the ministry co-hosted the International Congress for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). The ISPCAN congress focused on the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect and exploitation globally and was attended by more than 1,000 child protection professionals from around the world. During the congress, the ministry gave two formal presentations titled *Collaboration and Community Connections: Working Together to Keep Our Children Safe* and *The Evolution of Child Intervention Practice: The Alberta Experience*.

Case Management Support Tools

Children's Services is reviewing its approach to managing information gathering and sharing practices to ensure staff have access to the right information at the right time to support effective decision-making.

The Child Intervention Case Information Online system is a case management tool used by front-line staff to record information related to a child and family's involvement with child intervention. Improvements to the online system include:

- making the system more user-friendly by simplifying case information input;
- reducing duplication of case information input;
- supporting system and practice knowledge through the operation of a support desk for front-line staff; and
- building work site capacity through workshops, online training modules and refreshing the learning tools and user guide.

Cultural Connections for Indigenous Children Receiving Services

In 2016-17, Children's Services focused on improving outcomes for Indigenous children. A key part of this work is collaborating with and involving Indigenous (Status Indian, Non-Status Indian, Inuit and Métis) communities and agencies including the Delegated First Nation Agencies, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Métis stakeholders (i.e., the Metis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association) to support Indigenous children, youth and families involved with the child intervention system. The ministry is working to identify and implement improvements to the child intervention system to strengthen their response and improve connections for Indigenous children in care with their family, community and culture.

Children's Services understands that maintaining a cultural connection by registering eligible children for Indian Status, identifying Band affiliation, attaining Band membership, identifying Metis Settlement affiliation and/or connections to other Métis resources (i.e., the Metis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association) has a positive impact on the lives of these children and youth. The ministry is working to identify and implement practices, policies, processes and training to ensure Indigenous children and youth who are in government care maintain a connection to their culture, language, community and legal rights.

Prevention and Early Intervention Framework

Children's Services is committed to providing preventive and early intervention programming for children, youth and families to encourage positive and healthy outcomes. The ministry continues to work collaboratively with community partners to ensure the delivery of a wide range of effective prevention and early intervention programs and services.

In 2016-17, the ministry initiated both a process to update the Prevention and Early Intervention Framework (PEI) and a coordinated implementation approach. The framework supports decision making for providing funding and service delivery, defining key elements of services, communicating how the program provides prevention and early intervention and outlines a process and criteria for service delivery areas to review and improve programs and services.

Children's Services also began updating the PEI Framework to ensure it aligns with current emerging trends and research. The project is expected to continue through 2017-18. Improvements to the framework will include alignment with Indigenous perspectives through collaborating with leaders from Service Delivery Regions and Delegated First Nation Agencies, updating the framework to support the development of the regional implementation plans and continuing the development of a provincial monitoring and evaluation process.

Injuries and Deaths of Children and Youth with Child Intervention Involvement

As a measure of accountability and transparency, Children's Services remains committed to sharing information that supports an understanding of the circumstances of children, youth and families that are involved in the child intervention system. This includes sharing with Albertans the deaths of children and youth who were in care or receiving services at the time of their passing.

Please visit: www.humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying/17189.html for more information on the deaths of children receiving child intervention services.

In 2016-17, 26 young people receiving child intervention services died. Eight were in care, 16 were not in care and two were over 18 years of age and receiving support through a Support and

Financial Assistance Agreement. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) determined that three deaths were accidental, one was medical and two were suicides. The manner of death for 14 young people is pending a determination by the OCME. The remaining six deaths did not require a review by the OCME as the death occurred in hospital while the young person was under the care of medical professionals and an attending physician determined the manner of death as natural.

As per the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* and the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, all 26 deaths were reported to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the Child and Family Services Council for Quality Assurance.

In 2016-17, there were 13 reports of serious injuries involving young people receiving intervention services. Four of the reports involved children in care (with one youth sustaining two separate injuries), five were not in care and three were over 18 years of age and receiving support through a Support and Financial Assistance Agreement.

The *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* defines a serious injury as a life-threatening injury to a child or an injury that may cause significant impairment of a child's health. The 13 injuries included four stabbings, three assaults, two drug overdoses, one car accident, one dog attack, one suicide attempt by hanging and one case of broken ankles from a jump.

Summary of Injuries and Deaths of Children and Youth with Child Intervention Involvement in 2016-17

	In Care	Child Intervention Involvement (Not in Care)	Over 18 years of age and receiving Support and Financial Assistance (SFA)	Total
Death	8	16	2	26
Serious Injury	4	5	4*	13
Total	**12**	**21**	**6**	**39**

*One youth suffered two separate serious injuries

KEY STRATEGY **1.3**

Partner with Health to improve addictions and mental health supports for all Albertans, paying specific attention to children and youth

Addressing Mental Health

In 2016-17, Children's Services and Community and Social Services worked with Alberta Health Services to clarify roles and responsibilities for addressing mental health. Implementation of this shared approach is anticipated for 2017-18.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Children's Services worked on a plan to respond to the Valuing Mental Health report recommendations, which resulted from a comprehensive review of the addiction and mental health system in Alberta.

The recommendations responded to a wide range of needs in both urban and rural communities, among culturally diverse groups, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, and among many other stakeholders. These recommendations include developing a Provincial Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy with the Ministry of Health. The strategy will address the needs of targeted populations, including Indigenous and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, two-spirited or queer youth.

The ministry is continuing to work in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) to implement an Alberta wide Family-to-Family Peer Support Network. In 2016-17, Children's Services provided $100,000 in funding to the CMHA to provide compassionate support, along with information and resources, to aid families with maximizing their ability to assist their dependants with mental health concerns, while maintaining their own mental health.

The peer support networks will be initiated in 2017-18 by CMHA regional offices across the province (Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Camrose, Calgary, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Wood Buffalo). In response to the Fort McMurray wildfire, $100,000 in additional funding was provided to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo CMHA. This funding provided information and guidance to parents concerned about the mental health of their children, including anxiety and depression, as a result of the wildfire.

The ministry has responded to the ongoing opioid crisis by developing resources and protocols for staff and caregivers around fentanyl and carfentanil use and overdose.

Performance Measures

The safety and well-being of children and families is Children's Services' top priority. The ministry is working with communities and agencies to improve social outcomes for all Albertans. The following performance measures demonstrate Children's Services' commitment to helping children and families be safe and reach their full potential.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES **1.a**

Percentage of youth receiving Advancing Futures Bursaries who successfully completed their planned studies during the fiscal year

Source: Bursary Information Module

Advancing Futures is an educational bursary program that supports youth who have been in care or are currently receiving services under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*. The program provides transitional supports, such as mentoring and coaching, and financial support, to assist youth in achieving their educational goals and enable them to obtain employment. Youth are invited to apply if they would like to obtain their high school General Equivalency Diploma, upgrade through adult education or enroll in a post-secondary school for a degree, diploma, certificate or trade.

In addition to addressing financial needs, Advancing Futures assists students in achieving success by supporting them through transitional challenges, such as transitioning into adulthood, learning everyday life skills and learning how to be successful in school. Advancing Futures takes a strengths-based approach to supporting youth and recognizes the potential of students to reach their educational goals and to overcome challenges they may face. Measuring the percentage of youth successfully completing their planned studies provides Advancing Futures with the opportunity to assess both the students' and program's success.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, 789 applications for the program were submitted. Among them, 625 students were approved to receive a bursary, which is an 8.7 per cent increase over the 2015-16 fiscal year. Of the 625 students who received an Advancing Futures bursary, 85 per cent successfully completed their planned studies. This result is an increase of one percentage point over the 2015-16 results and has met the target of 85 per cent for 2016-17.

Currently, only 12.7 per cent of eligible youth are accessing Advancing Futures, which may be due to a variety of factors. For example, there is currently a focus on ensuring all youth who are eligible for a Support and Financial Assistance Agreement (SFAA) are offered one at the age of 18. A SFAA can be set up to help youth transition into adulthood and can be open until the age of 24. As a result, youth may be relying more on Child and Family Services offices for transitional supports before accessing Advancing Futures.

In early 2016, the ministry improved its internal structure and communication process to facilitate biannual engagement with child intervention caseworkers who have eligible youth in their caseloads. The intent of this engagement is to identify eligible youth earlier and provide better support in transitioning youth to post-secondary. Furthermore, in the fall of 2016, the program implemented a recruitment plan to:

- improve the transition planning process;
- strengthen delegation training components related to youth transitions and Advancing Futures;
- increase growth of users year after year; and
- increase the percentage of eligible youth accessing Advancing Futures to 25 per cent.

This plan fits within the Child Intervention Practice Framework principles of connection, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES **1.b**

Percentage of licensed day care programs and contracted family day home agencies that are accredited or participating in accreditation

Source: Alberta Association for Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services, and Child Care Information System

In 2016-17, 97 per cent of licensed day care programs and contracted family day home agencies were either accredited or participating in accreditation. This figure is consistent with the results from previous fiscal years.

Participation in accreditation is voluntary and is part of Alberta's commitment to ensure children have a healthy start in life and have the supports they need to grow and thrive. Even with accreditation being voluntary, the historical results show a vested interest to participate as demonstrated with the continual increase in the number of new licensed and approved programs.

The high participation rate demonstrates the commitment of Alberta's child care programs in providing high-quality learning environments for families and their children. Furthermore, the results clearly indicate that accredited programs continue to set and achieve goals that focus on positive outcomes related to children, staff, families, and communities as programs maintain their accreditation status year after year.

The high accreditation participation rate is forecasted to continue as the government continues to provide funding to support a trained and qualified professional workforce and its commitment to accessible and quality child care at a universal rate of $25 per day, as finances permit.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES **1.c**

Percentage of children and youth with a new child intervention file who did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months

Source: Child Intervention Case Information Online

Child intervention services are designed first and foremost to protect children from further maltreatment and rates of recurrence are a key indicator of the success of these services. Recurrence is defined as the proportion of children and youth who did not receive any further child intervention supports or services within 12 months of their file closure. This measure describes the proportion of children and youth with a new child intervention file who did not have an open child intervention file in the previous 12 months. This includes children and youth both in and out of care.

In 2016-17, the targeted result was met and 87 per cent of children and youth with a new child intervention file did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months. This result is two percentage points above the previous year's result (85 per cent in 2015-16).

The ministry is continuing its efforts in developing enhanced and strength-based ways to serve at-risk children, youth and families. The Child Intervention Practice Framework, the foundation of these enhancements, helps support an environment where family strengths are recognized, solutions for safety and well-being are developed collaboratively and children, youth and families are respected and supported. The ministry is accelerating the implementation of the framework by promoting initiatives to ensure child intervention staff are supported in making decisions in a manner consistent with the ministry's organizational values and principles and to ensure they have tools and approaches that provide the right kinds of services and supports.

Furthermore, families receiving child intervention services typically have many complex issues. During formal involvement with a family, staff members strive to build a collaborative, culturally sensitive relationship with the child and family members so that the family is comfortable returning for help, should the need arise.

1.a PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: Children receiving child intervention services as a percentage of the child population in Alberta

Intervention services are provided when there are concerns that a child or youth is being neglected or abused by their parent or guardian. Child intervention services are designed to promote well-being, stability and continuity of relationships with families or legal guardians and to protect children from further maltreatment. A range of programs and services are available from community agencies and child intervention workers to help parents who are motivated and able to build on their strengths and keep their families well, in addition to supporting children who cannot remain safe in their homes.

This indicator describes the percentage of the total child population in Alberta that are receiving child intervention services. Tracking the number of children receiving child intervention services helps the ministry plan and prepare resources to address caseload demands.

Children Receiving Intervention Services as a Percentage of the Child Population in Alberta

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Percentage	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Number of children receiving child intervention services	18,438	17,264	15,577	14,578	15,559
Number of children in Alberta	854,594*	872,917*	891,452*	909,072*	929,305

**Number of children in Alberta from 2012 to 2015 has been updated using the Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 051-0001.*

In 2016, there were 929,305 children in Alberta, among which 15,559 were receiving child intervention services, representing 1.7 per cent of the total child population in Alberta. This was 0.1 percentage point higher than in 2015. However, since 2012, despite child population growth in Alberta, this percentage has shown an overall decrease. This indicates that more children are being supported to live at home with their families.

OUTCOME

2 Greater collaboration between government, communities and Indigenous partners to strengthen services and achieve shared social outcomes

Children's Services is dedicated to developing and delivering culturally appropriate services, programs and policies to support better outcomes and collaborative relationships with Indigenous people across the province.

The following Key Strategies are the actions Children's Services has identified to support the above Outcome as described in the Human Services 2016-19 Business Plan.

KEY STRATEGY 2.1

Work with Indigenous communities, leaders and partners to strengthen relationships and develop collaborative strategies that support Indigenous people

Develop a Cultural Understanding Framework

In 2016-17, the ministry began working on an Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework. The framework is intended to set the future direction for Children's Services regarding a holistic learning and development approach for Indigenous cultural understanding.

While the development of the framework is expected to continue into 2017-18, the ministry also provided various Indigenous-focused training to staff during 2016-17. The training was designed to inform ministry staff of the long-term effects of colonization and residential schools on Indigenous children, families and communities. Government staff participation in experiential training helps to inform policy development and program practice to be more culturally inclusive to support improved client outcomes.

Blanket Exercises

The Blanket Exercise is a half-day experiential teaching tool that tells the history of the struggles of Indigenous rights and Indigenous land loss by having participants stand on blankets that represent the lands inhabited by Indigenous people that eventually became Canada. Through an Indigenous lens, this interactive training teaches the history of treaty making, colonization and Indigenous empowerment in Canada. In 2016-17, the Blanket Exercise sessions were delivered to 162 Children's Services staff, 331 other Government of Alberta staff and 343 external participants, for a total of 836 participants. Additionally, the ministry offered Blanket Exercise Facilitation training, further increasing capacity to provide this learning opportunity to government staff. In 2016-17, 120 Blanket Exercise facilitators were trained (43 Children's Services, 16 Community and Social Services, 16 from other ministries and 45 external partners).

Gently Whispering the Circle Back

Gently Whispering the Circle Back is a two-day experiential training session on the impact of residential schools and the importance of culture and ceremony. Participants had the opportunity to engage in cultural ceremonies, dialogue with Elders, learn about the meaning of the Circle process and hear stories about the experiences of residential school survivors.

In 2016-17, five Gently Whispering the Circle Back training sessions were delivered to 101 participants.

Indigenous Research and Knowledge Sharing

In 2016-17, Children's Services continued to research, document and disseminate promising practices and innovative approaches to service delivery by working with Indigenous peoples and communities. Promising practices were identified from various collaborations, partnerships and research that help to inform better policy development and program delivery. Specifically, the ministry works with internal and external groups to support Indigenous research and knowledge sharing. For example:

- The *Indigenous Women's Economic Security and Wellbeing* research report developed by PolicyWise for Children and Families, a not-for-profit corporation, was released in August 2016. The study used Indigenous Research Methodology (a community-based approach that preserves Indigenous voices, challenges the dominant discourse and strengthens the community) to gain a deeper understanding of how Indigenous women in the northeastern region of Alberta think and feel about the economic well-being of their respective communities. The contributors included government and non-governmental organizations such as the University nuhelot'įne thaiyots'į nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills, Ministry of Children's Services, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and PolicyWise.
- The project included 126 participants from 10 First Nations and Métis communities. The project was funded by Children's Services and Indigenous Relations.
- The research report is available through the PolicyWise website. For more information, please visit www.policywise.com.

Innovative and Promising Practices for Indigenous Peoples and Communities

Children's Services supported a one-day event called A Day of Sharing held on September 9, 2016. The intent of the Day of Sharing was to bring together Parent Link Centres (PLCs) and provide cultural awareness training, share promising practices, network and participate in discussion circles on approaches to provide better services for Indigenous families. The training day included several activities, including the Blanket Exercise (see previous page of this annual report for more information). More than 120 PLC staff members attended the training.

> The *Indigenous Women's Economic and Wellbeing* research project was funded to support understanding of Indigenous perspectives and included 126 participants from 10 First Nations and Métis Communities

Engagement Excellence and Capacity Building

Children's Services explored options to develop a Stakeholder Relationship Management System (SRMS).

The SRMS program allows for proactive planning of engagement activities to further support communication and strategic operational planning. The system allows users to maintain up-to-date contact information and community organization profiles while tracking populations served. The SRMS will enable users to:

- track recent communication, interaction and engagement activities;
- create distribution lists and reports;
- obtain a responsive search including collating and categorizing information; and
- conduct comprehensive business analytics and track workflow.

In Spring 2017, an online Engagement Toolkit was created to support Children's Services' commitment to promote collaboration and cooperation between Indigenous communities and the provincial government. The toolkit is scheduled to be available online in the Summer of 2017.

Five Engagement Excellence Capacity Building Pilot Sessions were held to further collaboration and understanding between Indigenous communities and the provincial government. The sessions drew 212 participants. The session topics included:

- The Knowledge Keepers, Working with the Elder (March 2017);
- System Mapping for Planning and Interview Techniques for Assessment (February 2017);
- Case Study of Staff Engagement in the South Region and Building Effective Surveys to Collect Feedback (January 2017);
- Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Engagement Case Study, Introduction to Engagement Tools from the Co-Lab and Sexsmith Youth Advisory Council Case Study (December 2016); and
- The Role of the Director of Consultation, Government of Alberta (October 2016).

The participants identified inclusivity, improved technology and relevant information for government work as successful elements of the sessions.

Elders' Wisdom Circle

The Elders' Wisdom Circle (EWC) provides advice to Children's Services to ensure programs and services are culturally appropriate for Indigenous children, families and communities. Membership comprises First Nations Elders from Treaty areas 6, 7 and 8, as well as a Métis Elder.

During 2016-17, the EWC provided advice on ceremony, cultural protocol and engagement with Indigenous people, communities and organizations. In December 2016, the EWC developed a work plan that focused on providing advice on Indigenous initiatives such as the Cultural Understanding Framework, Cultural Connections for Children in Care and the Indigenous Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

The EWC supports the Children's Services Indigenous Internship Program. Interns attended the EWC meetings to facilitate knowledge exchange, sharing of cultural teachings, developing leadership skills, supporting professional growth and encouraging the retention of Indigenous interns in the Government of Alberta.

Indigenous Engagement Partnerships

In 2016-17, Children's Services participated in the Child and Family Services Trilateral Engagement Process (CFSTEP), which is a collaborative partnership among the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, Treaty 7 Management Corporation, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta. The CFSTEP partners are committed to developing a holistic and culturally appropriate approach to address the over-representation of First Nation children in care in Alberta.

CFSTEP is made up of the Senior Officials Steering Committee (SOSC) and the Trilateral Working Group (TWG):

- The SOSC is a table of senior officials from each of the CFSTEP member organizations. The SOSC reviews and approves the work being done by the TWG and provides overall direction to the process.
- The TWG works to identify structural and service delivery issues that have contributed to the over-representation of First Nation children in care. The TWG drafts and develops processes, strategies and relevant material to facilitate the reduction of First Nation children and youth in care and improve outcomes for First Nations families in Alberta. TWG membership comprises technical staff from each of the member organizations.

In November 2016, the CFSTEP hosted a two-day Child and Family Services Symposium. The symposium was an opportunity for external participants to provide input on child intervention.

The information gathered at the Child and Family Services Symposium will be used to inform future strategies for services provided to Indigenous children and families.

Collaborative Approaches to Addressing Social Challenges

The ministry is committed to addressing issues and challenges commonly faced by Indigenous communities by engaging directly with Indigenous communities and creating collaborative solutions.

In May 2016, the ministry coordinated and delivered two community presentations with Paul First Nation that were attended by approximately 40 people. The community presentations were on the following topics:

- Family Violence – the presentation included training on how to recognize the signs of family violence and increase awareness of available supports; and
- RCMP Hub Program – the hub model is a venue for service providers from various sectors to meet one or more times a week to share limited information about their clients whose current situation meets a defined threshold of acutely elevated risk.

Children's Services collaborated with Paul First Nation on a pilot project to develop a long-term strategic plan to respond to social changes within the Indigenous community. The ministry worked with Chief and Council to develop a community gaps analysis and a research report to inform strategic planning.

Jordan's Principle

Jordan's Principle is about ensuring the needs of all First Nation children are met when there are issues or complications regarding payment for government services. The principle ensures that all children have access to the health and social services they need.

Children's Services is leading a cross-ministry working group to achieve a clarified and shared understanding of Jordan's Principle (JP) within the Government of Alberta. The Jordan's Principle Working Group (JPWG) collaborates with the Government of Canada and Government of

Alberta ministries (Children's Services, Health, Education, Indigenous Relations and Community and Social Services) by sharing information and programs.

In 2016-17, the ministry continued to partner with the Government of Canada to increase service coordination and navigation for First Nations children, youth and families.

KEY STRATEGY 2.2

Work closely with Indigenous leaders to review ministry programs and policies to identify ways to implement the objectives and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Children's Services is the lead for the Government of Alberta on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) Proposals 4A and 4B and has established cross-ministry working groups to determine how best to engage with Indigenous people and other partners. Children's Services has completed an environmental scan of learning programs and services within the Government of Alberta to strengthen the engagement process.

Proposals 4A and 4B are as follows:

- Proposal 4A: Approach First Nations and the federal government about the possibility of entering into a trilateral and cost-sharing agreement addressing enhanced early-intervention and prevention services for children and families on-reserve (i.e., traditional parenting supports, programming for child-maltreatment and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder programs).
- Proposal 4B: Approach the federal government about the possibility of entering into a cost-sharing agreement for enhanced early childhood development and learning to align with the growing awareness of the life-long impact of investing in the early years (i.e., increased support for Head Start programs, day care and child care programming, etc.).

KEY STRATEGY 2.3

Improve information-sharing practices within government and with service agencies to support the best outcomes for the health, education and safety of children and families

Information Sharing Strategy

The Information Sharing Strategy (ISS) provides support to the Government of Alberta and service delivery partners through a cross-ministry leadership group. In 2016, the cross-ministry leadership group worked towards greater information sharing and consistency of information sharing policies and practices.

In 2016-17, information on the ISS was presented at the Information Access and Privacy Conference (June 2016) and to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinators (March 2016).

A key initiative in realizing the ISS was the Information Sharing Approach to Integrate Service Delivery.

In 2016-17, Children's Services, along with five ministry partners (Advanced Education, Community and Social Services, Health, Justice and Solicitor General, and Seniors and Housing) achieved cross-ministry consensus for an information sharing approach and associated toolkit to assist programs with designing and implementing social-based services.

To support a collaborative, coordinated, fully integrated social-based program or service delivery approach, the *Information Sharing Framework Guide* and supporting toolkit were developed in 2016.

These resources are currently open for piloting, and provide guidelines, practice tips and a template to design an overarching information sharing framework.

Open Government Portal

The Government of Alberta releases public data and information to meet its commitment to be transparent, open and accountable to its citizens and to help citizens understand how government works.

In 2016-17, Children's Services updated open data products to improve information sharing, transparency and accountability to the public through the use of the Open Data Portal.

Child and Youth Data Lab

The Child and Youth Data Lab (CYDL) Longitudinal Project is a six-year research project, involving the integration of data from several programs across the provincial government serving children and youth. This research provides opportunities to more fully understand the critical factors that impact the lives of children and youth in Alberta.

In 2016-17, the project released population profile reports (Family Support for Children with Disabilities, Criminal Offences, Income Support Recipients, Post-Secondary Education, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Mental Health Services). The results will be used, where possible, to inform policy and program development across several ministries. For more information, please visit: www.policywise.com/initiatives/cydl/.

In January 2017, the CYDL hosted a successful public launch of the research and reports. Approximately 420 people (160 in-person; 260 on-line) attended the daylong event. Feedback from participants was positive.

QUICK FACTS

What is the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an international human rights instrument adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2007 after more than two decades of negotiations.

The Declaration affirms the inherent or pre-existing collective human rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as the individual human rights of Indigenous women, men and children. It provides a framework for justice and reconciliation, applying existing human rights standards to the specific historical, cultural and social circumstances of Indigenous peoples.

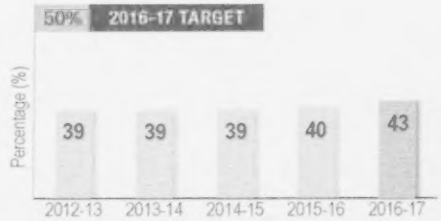
Source: www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/

Performance Measures

The safety and well-being of children and families is Children's Services' top priority. The ministry is working with communities and agencies to improve social outcomes for all Albertans. The following performance measure demonstrates Children's Services' commitment to helping children and families be safe and reach their full potential.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES **2.a**

Percentage of Indigenous children in foster care/ kinship care who are placed with Indigenous families



Source: Child Intervention Case Information Online

This measure is an indicator of the portion of Indigenous children and youth receiving culturally appropriate services through foster or kinship care. The decision to remove a child from their biological family and bring the child into care is not an easy one or one taken lightly. When it is necessary to bring an Indigenous child into care, attempts are made to place the child in their community, with extended family, with individuals emotionally connected to the child or with a family of a similar Indigenous background.

Kinship care is the preferred placement option as it allows children to maintain important familial and cultural ties and is less traumatic for the child than being placed with strangers (foster or group care). Kinship caregivers are extended family members or persons who have a significant relationship with the child and family.

In 2016-17, 43 per cent of Indigenous children in foster or kinship care were placed with Indigenous families. Although this result is below the target of 50 per cent, it has increased by three percentage points over the result observed in 2015-16. The ministry is committed to supporting Indigenous children to maintain cultural connections and, wherever possible, to place Indigenous children in Indigenous homes that provide safe and stable environments.

Like other jurisdictions in Canada, Alberta is experiencing challenges in recruiting caregivers, particularly Indigenous caregivers and caregivers able to manage the complex needs of the children coming into care. This is due, in part, to the changing demographics of Canadian families: there are more lone-parent families and more families where both parents work. These families may not have the time or capacity to care for other children. There has also been an increase in the number of caregivers adopting children in their care and retiring from caregiving, both of which create a reduction in the number of homes that are retained relative to the number of new homes that are recruited.

Children's Services is continuing its effort to make a profound and fundamental shift in its relationship with Indigenous partners. The ministry uses the UN Declaration as a framework for reconciliation and to provide guidance on collaborative relationships with Indigenous partners, based on the principles of equality, partnership, good faith and mutual respect. The ministry continues to work with Indigenous communities and caregivers to invest in ongoing recruitment for Indigenous foster parents and kinship caregivers. This has included a funding increase (from $20,000 in 2015 to $30,000 in 2016) for each Treaty Area (6, 7 and 8) to host caregiver training conferences.

How kinship caregivers are supported has changed. In 2016, the Alberta Foster Parent Association (AFPA) started to provide supports to all kinship caregivers, ensuring all the services and supports offered to foster parents are also available to kinship caregivers.

Financial Statements

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2017

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended March 31, 2017

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Ministry of Children's Services, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statements of operations, change in net debt and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry of Children's Services as at March 31, 2017, and the results of its operations, its changes in net debt and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher FCPA, FCA]

Auditor General

June 5, 2017

Edmonton, Alberta

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
Year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual (Restated Note 3)
		(in thousands)	
Revenues (Schedule 1)			
Government Transfers			
Federal and other Government Grants			
Services on First Nations Reserves	$ 29,366	$ 39,066	$ 25,289
Other Transfers	23,950	30,019	25,789
Premium, Fees and Licences	-	-	1
Other Revenue	1,971	14,085	10,696
	55,287	83,170	61,775
Expenses - Directly Incurred (Notes 2(b) and 12, Schedules 2, 3, and 6)			
Programs			
Ministry Support Services	17,419	17,048	18,695
Child Intervention	734,149	769,909	738,123
Child Care	306,548	310,968	287,197
Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth	91,996	96,322	91,387
	1,150,112	1,194,247	1,135,402
Annual Deficit	$ (1,094,825)	$ (1,111,077)	$ (1,073,627)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
Year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
	(in thousands)	
Financial Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 37	$ 209
Accounts Receivable (Note 4)	56,543	33,276
	56,580	33,485
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities (Note 5)	99,210	89,775
Net Debt	(42,630)	(56,290)
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 6)	9,775	5,937
Prepaid Expenses	16	-
	9,791	5,937
Net Liabilities	(32,839)	(50,353)
Net Liabilities at Beginning of Year	(50,353)	(47,535)
Annual Deficit	(1,111,077)	(1,073,627)
Adjustment to Net Liabilities (Note 11)	5,492	-
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	1,123,099	1,070,809
Net Liabilities at End of Year	$ (32,839)	$ (50,353)

Contingent liabilities and contractual obligations (Notes 7 and 8)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET DEBT
Year ended March 31, 2017

	2017		2016
	Budget	**Actual**	**Actual (Restated Note 3)**
	(in thousands)		
Annual Deficit	$(1,094,825)	$(1,111,077)	$ (1,073,627)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(1,539)	(1,494)	(2,525)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 6)	3,226	3,148	4,773
Change in Prepaid Expenses		(16)	-
Net Financing Provided from General Revenue		1,123,099	1,070,809
Decrease / (Increase) in Net Debt		13,660	(570)
Net Debt at Beginning of Year		(56,290)	(55,720)
Net Debt at End of Year		$ (42,630)	$ (56,290)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
	(in thousands)	
Operating Transactions		
Annual Deficit	$ (1,111,077)	$ (1,073,627)
Non-Cash items included in Net Operating Results		
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 6)	3,148	4,773
	(1,107,929)	(1,068,854)
(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(23,267)	(7,961)
(Increase) in Prepaid Expenses	(16)	-
Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	9,435	8,536
Cash (Applied to) Operating Transactions	(1,121,777)	(1,068,279)
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 6)	(1,494)	(2,525)
Cash (Applied to) Capital Transactions	(1,494)	(2,525)
Financing Transactions		
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	1,123,099	1,070,809
(Decrease) Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(172)	5
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	209	204
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	$ 37	$ 209

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The Ministry of Children's Services operates under the authority of the *Government Organization Act*, Chapter G-10, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

Children's Services delivers supports and services to children, youth and families. The Ministry was established to create an increased focus on ensuring that children in Alberta are provided with the services and supports they need to thrive in healthy families and healthy communities.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

(a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Ministry of Children's Services for which the Minister of Children's Services is accountable. The Ministry annual report provides a more comprehensive accounting of the financial position and results of the Ministry's operations for which the Minister is accountable.

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenue

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for which goods and services have not been provided by year-end is recognized as deferred revenue.

Government transfers
Transfers from the Government of Alberta (GoA), Federal and other governments are referred to as government transfers.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (continued)

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting (continued)

Revenue (continued)

Government transfers (continued)
Government transfers are recognized as deferred revenue if the eligibility criteria of the transfer, or the stipulations together with the Ministry's actions and communications as to the use of transfers create a liability. These transfers are recognized as revenues as the stipulations are met and, when applicable, the Ministry complies with its communicated uses of these transfers.

All other government transfers, without terms for the use of the transfer, are recognized as revenue when the transfer is authorized and the Ministry meets the eligibility criteria (if any).

Expenses

Directly Incurred
Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Ministry has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the government's budget documents.

Grants are recognized as expenses when authorized, eligibility criteria if any are met, and a reasonable estimate of the amounts can be made. Where the Ministry enters into a multi-year agreement, expenses are recognized in the fiscal year of Budget Appropriation.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets,
- pension costs, which are the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year, and
- valuation adjustments which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay.

Incurred by Others
Services contributed by other related entities in support of the Ministry's operations are not recognized and are disclosed in Schedule 6 and allocated to programs in Schedule 6.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (continued)

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting (continued)

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's-length transaction between knowledgeable and willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of Cash and Cash Equivalents, Accounts Receivable, and Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not for comsumption in the normal course of operations.

Financial assets of the ministry are limited to financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Cash and Cash Equivalents
Cash includes deposits in the Consolidated Cash Control Account of the Province of Alberta. Interest on these deposits does not accrue to the Ministry.

Accounts Receivable
Accounts receivable are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain.

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of a government to others arising from past transactions or events, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (continued)

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting (continued)

Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead:

(a) are normally employed to deliver government services;
(b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and
(c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets of the Ministry are limited to tangible capital assets and prepaid expenses.

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets of the Ministry are recognized at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is $250,000 and the threshold for major systems enhancements is $100,000. The threshold for all other tangible capital assets is $5,000. All land is capitalized.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is put into service.

When tangible capital assets are gifted or sold for nominal sum, the net book value of the tangible capital assets, less any nominal proceeds, are recognized as grants in kind.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (continued)

(c) Future Accounting Changes

The Public Sector Accounting Board has issued the following accounting standards:

- **PS 2200 Related Party Disclosures and PS 3420 Inter-Entity Transactions (effective April 1, 2017)**
  PS 2200 defines a related party and establishes disclosures required for related party transactions. PS 3420 establishes standards on how to account for and report transactions between public sector entities that comprise a government's reporting entity from both a provider and recipient perspective.

- **PS 3210 Assets, PS 3320 Contingent Assets, and PS 3380 Contractual Rights (effective April 1, 2017)**
  PS 3210 provides guidance for applying the definition of assets set out in FINANCIAL STATEMENT CONCEPTS, Section PS1000, and establishes general disclosure standards for assets; PS 3320 defines and establishes disclosure standards on contingent assets; PS 3380 defines and establishes disclosure standards on contractual rights.

- **PS 3430 Restructuring Transactions (effective April 1, 2018)**
  This standard provides guidance on how to account for and report restructuring transactions by both transferors and recipients of assets and/or liabilities, together with related program or operating responsibilities.

Management is currently assessing the impact of these standards on the financial statements.

NOTE 3 GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

(in thousands)

The Ministry of Children's Services was established as a result of government restructuring of the former Ministry of Human Services announced on January 19, 2017 (O.C. 18/2017 and O.C. 059/2017). The responsibilities of Child Care; Child Intervention; and Early Intervention Services were transferred to the Ministry of Children's Services.

Comparatives for 2016 have been restated as if the Ministry had always been assigned with its current responsibilities.

Net Liabilities on April 1, 2015 are made up as follows:

Net Liabilities as previously reported	$	-
Transferred from Department of Community and Social Services		(47,535)
Net Liabilities at April 1, 2015	$	(47,535)

Net Debt on April 1, 2015 is made up as follows:

Net Debt as previously reported	$	-
Transferred from Department of Community and Social Services		(55,720)
Net Debt at April 1, 2015	$	(55,720)

NOTE 4 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

(in thousands)

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

	2017			2016
	Gross Amount	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	Net Realizable Value	Net Realizable Value (Restated Note 3)
Accounts Receivable	$ 54,598	$ (1,141)	$ 53,457	$ 29,325
Accounts Receivable – Other	3,086	-	3,086	3,951
	$ 57,684	$ (1,141)	$ 56,543	$ 33,276

NOTE 5 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
Other Accrued Liabilities	$ 99,210	$ 89,775

NOTE 6 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

(in thousands)

	Equipment[1]	Computer Hardware and Software	Other	2017 Total	2016 Total (Restated Note 3)
Estimated Useful Life	3 - 15 years	5 years	5 – 10 years		
Historical Costs[2]					
Beginning of Year	$ 754	$ 41,717	$ 100	$ 42,571	$ 42,521
Additions	-	1,494	-	1,494	2,525
Transfers	-	19,800	-	19,800	-
Disposals, including write-downs	-	-	-	-	(2,475)
	$ 754	$ 63,012	$ 100	$ 63,866	$ 42,571
Accumulated Amortization					
Beginning of Year	$ 600	$ 35,974	$ 60	$ 36,634	$ 34,336
Amortization Expense	47	3,093	8	3,148	4,773
Transfer	-	14,309	-	14,309	(2,475)
Effect of Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	$ 647	$ 53,376	$ 68	$ 54,091	$ 36,634
Net Book Value at March 31, 2017	$ 107	$ 9,636	$ 32	$ 9,775	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2016	$ 154	$ 5,743	$ 40		$ 5,937

[1] Equipment includes vehicles, equipment, office equipment and furniture and other equipment.

[2] Historical cost includes work-in-progress at March 31, 2017 totalling $5,050 (2016: $1,615) comprised of: computer hardware and software.

NOTE 7 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

The Ministry is involved in legal matters where damages are being sought. These matters may give rise to contingent liabilities.

As at March 31, 2017, the total amount claimed for all likely claims is $122,100 (2016: $131,150). Included in the total likely claims are claims in which the Ministry has been jointly named with other ministries. Included in the total likely claims are claims covered in whole or in part by the Alberta Risk Management Fund.

The Ministry has been named in 48 (2016: 44) claims of which the outcome is not determinable. Of these claims, 44 (2016: 43) have specified amounts totalling $477,765 (2016: $506,424). The remaining 4 (2016: 1) claims have no amounts specified. Included in the total claims, 37 claims totalling $464,700 (2016: 39 claims totalling $ 496,480) are covered in whole or in part by the Alberta Risk Management Fund. The resolution of indeterminable claims may result in a liability, if any, that may be significantly lower than the claimed amount.

NOTE 8 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

(in thousands)

Contractual obligations are obligations of the Ministry to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

The Ministry contracts with organizations to provide specific programs and services for children under care of the Ministry. The Ministry has contracts for specific programs and services for the year ended March 31, 2017 similar to those provided by these organizations during the year ended March 31, 2016.

As at March 31, 2017, the Ministry had the following contractual obligations:

	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
Obligations under Operating Leases, Contracts and Programs	$ 348,455	$ 173,904

Estimated payment requirements for each of the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

	Total
2017 – 18	$ 301,363
2018 – 19	35,235
2019 – 20	6,825
2020 – 21	2,489
2020 – 22	2,539
Thereafter	4
	$ 348,455

NOTE 9 BENEFIT PLANS

(in thousands)

The Ministry participates in the multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan, Public Service Pension Plan and Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $34,951 for the year ended March 31, 2017 (2016: $34,665). The Ministry is not responsible for future funding of the plan deficit other than through contribution increases.

At December 31, 2016, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of $402,033 (2015: surplus $299,051), the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $302,975 (2015: deficiency $133,188), and the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers reported a deficiency of $50,020 (2015: deficiency $16,305).

The Ministry also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2017, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported a surplus of $101,515 (2016: surplus $83,006) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan a surplus of $31,439 (2016: surplus $29,246). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 10 TRUST FUNDS UNDER ADMINISTRATION

(in thousands)

The Ministry administers trust funds that are regulated funds consisting of public money over which the Legislature has no power of appropriation. Because the Province has no equity in the funds and administers them for the purpose of various trusts, they are not included in the Ministry's financial statements.

At March 31, 2017, the trust funds under administration were as follows:

	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
Child Resources Rebate Trust Fund	$ 698	$ 861

NOTE 11 ADJUSTMENTS TO NET LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

The reconciliation of adjustments to net liabilities is as follows:

	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
Non-Grant Transfer of Tangible Capital Assets from other Government Department	5,492	-
	$ 5,492	$ -

NOTE 12 OVER EXPENDITURE OF AUTHORIZED SPENDING

(in thousands)

The Ministry's total actual operational expenses exceeded the authorized votes by $16,557 for the year ended March 31, 2017. As required by the Financial Administration Act, this amount must be charged against the voted appropriation for the year ending March 31, 2018. See Schedule 3 to the financial statements.

NOTE 13 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain 2016 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2017 presentation.

NOTE 14 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved by the Senior Financial Officer and the Deputy Minister.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Revenues **Schedule 1**
Year ended March 31, 2017

	2017		2016
	Budget	**Actual**	**Actual (Restated Note 3)**
		(in thousands)	
Government Transfers			
Federal and other Government Grants			
Services on First Nations Reserves	$ 29,366	$ 39,066	$ 25,289
Other Transfers	23,950	30,019	25,789
	53,316	69,085	51,078
Premiums, Fees and Licenses	-	-	1
Other Revenue			
Refund of Expenses	1,971	13,006	9,307
Miscellaneous	-	1,079	1,389
	1,971	14,085	10,696
Total Revenues	$ 55,287	$ 83,170	$ 61,775

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Expenses - Directly Incurred Detailed by Object **Schedule 2**
Year ended March 31, 2017

	2017		2016
	Budget	Actual	Actual (Restated Note 3)
		(in thousands)	
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	$ 299,529	$ 306,445	$ 294,470
Supplies and Services	530,310	557,631	529,353
Grants	317,114	327,065	306,464
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	3,226	3,148	4,773
Total Expenses before Recoveries	1,150,179	1,194,289	1,135,060
Less Recovery from Support Service Arrangements with Related Parties [(a)]	(67)	(109)	(98)
Other	-	67	440
	$ 1,150,112	$ 1,194,247	$ 1,135,402

[(a)] The Ministry provided administrative support services to the departments of Advanced Education, Health and Labour. Costs incurred for these services are recovered from the departments of Advanced Education, Health and Labour.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Lapse/Encumbrance
Year ended March 31, 2017

Schedule 3

		Voted Estimate [1]	Supplementary Estimate [2]	Adjustments [3]	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals [4]	Unexpended (Over Expended)
		(in thousands)					
Program - Operating Expense							
1	**Ministry Support Services**						
1.1	Minister's Office	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 129	$ (129)
1.2	Deputy Minister's Office	-	-	-	-	140	(140)
1.3	Human Resources	4,108	-	-	4,108	3,751	357
1.4	Strategic Services	7,605	-	-	7,605	7,226	379
1.5	Corporate Services	4,359	-	-	4,359	4,212	147
1.6	Communications	645	-	-	645	615	30
1.7	Appeals Panels	702	-	-	702	916	(214)
		17,419	**-**	**-**	**17,419**	**16,989**	**430**

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Lapse/Encumbrance
Year ended March 31, 2017

Schedule 3 (Continued)

		Voted Estimate [1]	Supplementary Estimate [2]	Adjustments [3]	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals [4]	Unexpended (Over Expended)
		(in thousands)					
2	**Child Intervention**						
2.1	Program Planning and Delivery	26,321	-	-	26,321	24,601	1,720
2.2	Child Intervention Services	478,268	17,000	-	495,268	496,772	(1,504)
2.3	Supports for Permanency	54,650	3,000	-	57,650	59,879	(2,229)
2.4	Foster Care Support	170,184	8,000	-	178,184	184,479	(6,295)
		729,423	**28,000**	-	**757,423**	**765,731**	**(8,308)**

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Lapse/Encumbrance
Year ended March 31, 2017

Schedule 3 (Continued)

		Voted Estimate [1]	Supplementary Estimate [2]	Adjustments [3]	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals [4]	Unexpended (Over Expended)
		(in thousands)					
3	**Child Care**						
3.1	Program Planning and Delivery	4,294	-	-	4,294	3,996	298
3.2	Child Care Subsidy and Supports	201,090	-	-	201,090	201,090	-
3.3	Child Care Accreditation	101,164	-	-	101,164	105,832	(4,668)
		306,548	**-**	**-**	**306,548**	**310,918**	**(4,370)**
4	**Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth**						
4.1	Early Intervention and Early Childhood Development	83,491	-	-	83,491	88,137	(4,646)
4.2	Youth in Transition	8,505	-	-	8,505	8,168	337
		91,996	**-**	**-**	**91,996**	**96,305**	**(4,309)**

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Lapse/Encumbrance
Year ended March 31, 2017

Schedule 3 (Continued)

		Voted Estimate [1]	Supplementary Estimate [2]	Adjustments [3]	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals [4]	Unexpended (Over Expended)
				(in thousands)			
Total		$ 1,145,386	$ 28,000		$ 1,173,386	$ 1,189,943	$ (16,557)
Lapse/(Encumbrance)							$ (16,557)
Program - Financial Transactions (Acquisition of Inventory)							
Lapse/(Encumbrance)							$ -
Program - Capital Investment							
1.5	Ministry Support Servicees - Strategic Services	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
6.1	Child Intervention Services - Program Planning and Delivery	1,539	-	-	1,539	1,494	45
6.2	Child Intervention Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		$ 1,539	$ -	$ -	$ 1,539	$ 1,494	$ 45
Lapse/(Encumbrance)							$ 45

[1] As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" page of 2017-18 Government Estimates.

[2] Per the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on March 20, 2017

[3] Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry forward amounts and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote by vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding voted estimate in the current year.

[4] Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments, in the amount of $4,304

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Salary and Benefits Disclosure
Year ended March 31, 2017

Schedule 4

	2017				2016
	Base Salary [1]	Other Cash Benefits [2]	Other Non-Cash Benefits [3]	Total	Total
	(in thousands)				
Senior Official					
Deputy Minister [4] [5]	$ 57	$ -	$ 16	$ 73	$ -
Executives					
Assistant Deputy Ministers					
Child Intervention	201	-	52	253	255
Corporate Services [6]	200	10	52	262	254
Indigenous and Community Connections	190	-	49	239	241
Strategic Policy and Early Childhood Development [5]	39	-	11	50	-
Strategic Knowledge and Technology Officer [6] [7]	152	23	8	183	255
Executive Director, Human Resources [6]	165	-	42	207	208

[1] Base salary includes regular salary and earnings such as acting pay.

[2] Other cash benefits include vacation payouts, severance, car allowance and lump sum payments.

[3] Other non-cash benefits include government's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition fees.

[4] Automobile provided, no dollar amount included in other non-cash benefits.

[5] The position was created on January 19, 2017.

[6] The incumbent's services are shared with the Department of Community and Social Services which contributes its own share of the cost of salary and benefits. Full salary and benefits are disclosed in this schedule.

[7] The individual occupied 2 positions from August 2 to October 28, 2016. The salary and benefits for that period are disclosed in that position.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Related Party Transactions **Schedule 5**
Year ended March 31, 2017
(in thousands)

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta's financial statements. Related parties also include key management personnel in the Ministry.

The Ministry and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for premiums, licences and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this schedule.

The Ministry had the following transactions with related parties reported on the Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	Other Entities	
	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
Revenues:		
Other	$ -	$ -
Expenses:		
Grants	$ 2,655	$ 2,285
Other Services	16,415	9,645
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	$ 19,070	**$ 11,930**
Tangible Capital Assets Transferred In		
Ministry of Service Alberta	5,492	-
	$ 5,492	**$ -**
Receivable from (Payable to)		
Ministry of Advanced Education	(23)	(77)
Ministry of Education	11	-
Ministry of Service Alberta	(1)	(1)
Ministry of Community and Social Services	(29)	-
	$ (42)	**$ (78)**

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Related Party Transactions **Schedule 5 (Continued)**
Year ended March 31, 2017
(in thousands)

	Other Entities	
	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
Contractual Obligations		
Ministry of Advanced Education	$ 241	$ 34
Ministry of Education	1,227	-
Ministry of Health	2,215	-
	$ 3,683	$ 34

The above transactions do not include support service arrangement transactions disclosed in Schedule 2.

The Ministry also had the following transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not reported in the financial statements and are disclosed in Schedule 6.

	Other Entities	
	2017	2016 (Restated Note 3)
Expenses - Incurred by Others:		
Accommodation	$ 28,716	$ 35,200
Legal Services	8,063	8,569
Business Services	6,361	5,853
	$ 43,140	$ 49,622

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Allocated Costs
Year ended March 31, 2017
(in thousands)

Schedule 6

Program	2017 Expenses - Directly Incurred[1]	2017 Expenses - Incurred by Others: Accommodation Costs[2]	2017 Expenses - Incurred by Others: Legal Services[3]	2017 Expenses - Incurred by Others: Business Services[4]	2017 Total Expenses	2016 (Restated Note 3) Total Expenses
Ministry Support Services	$ 17,048	$ 225	$ 149	$ 50	$ 17,472	$ 20,305
Child Intervention	769,909	26,450	7,847	5,859	810,065	783,240
Child Care	310,968	1,574	-	349	312,891	289,368
Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth	96,322	467	67	103	96,959	92,111
	$ 1,194,247	$ 28,716	$ 8,063	$ 6,361	$ 1,237,387	$ 1,185,024

[1] Expenses - Directly Incurred as per the Statement of Operations.

[2] Accommodation costs, includes grants in lieu of taxes, allocated by the number of employees per program.

[3] Legal Services costs allocated by estimated costs incurred by each program.

[4] Business Services costs, including charges for IT support, vehicles, internal audit services and other services allocated by costs in certain programs.

Ministry of Children's Services
Statement of Remissions, Compromises and Write-Offs
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017

The following Statement has been prepared pursuant to section 23 of the *Financial Administration Act*. The Statement includes all Remissions, Compromises and Write-offs of the Ministry of Children's Services made or approved during the Fiscal Year.

		(in thousands)
Remissions under section 21 of the *Financial Administration Act*:		$ -
Compromises under section 22 of the *Financial Administration Act*:		-
Bankruptcies:		-
Write-Offs:		
	Child Care Subsidy	1,765
	Other	59
Sub total		1,824
TOTAL		**1,824**

Appendixes

Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* requires the chief officer of a department to report annually on all disclosures made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.

This constitutes the annual report of the chief officer of the department covering the period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

Chief Officer Report as at March 31, 2017

There was no disclosure of wrongdoing filed with the designated officer for the period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

Performance Measure Sources and Methodologies

Outcome One: Performance Measures

1.a Percentage of youth receiving Advancing Futures Bursaries who successfully completed their planned studies during the fiscal year

Advancing Futures takes a strength-based approach to supporting youth and recognizes the potential of students to reach their educational goals, overcome challenges and obtain meaningful employment. To this end, Advancing Futures provides assistance to youth who have been or continue to be in the care of Children's Services to successfully complete high school, post-secondary or apprenticeship programs.

This measure calculates the percentage of youth successfully completing their planned studies (the program that the student enrolled in at the beginning of the semester) during the fiscal year. The results include those students who did not withdraw from the institution they were attending or whose award was not "terminated" by Advancing Futures due to lack of attendance or course completion during a school term. The results are generated from a report pulled from the Bursary Information Module, an internal database used to track Advancing Futures Bursaries program recipients.

The report identifies the number of students based on the fiscal year (April 1-March 31) who withdrew and whose awards were terminated during a school year. For those bursary recipients with a start date in the prior fiscal year but a term end date in the later fiscal year after April 30, who are not commencing another planned study in the fiscal year, success is counted in both fiscal years as the student has been successful in two periods of planned studies. To avoid duplication, recipients are counted as unique individuals for the calculation. The number of withdrawals and terminations is subtracted from the total number of recipients. The result is then divided by the total number of students who were approved for a bursary during that school term.

$$\% = \frac{\text{\# total recipients} - \text{\# withdrawn or terminated}}{\text{\# total recipients}} \times 100\%$$

1.b Percentage of licensed day care programs and contracted family day home agencies that are accredited or participating in accreditation

Accreditation for eligible day care programs and family day home agencies is a voluntary process in Alberta. Accreditation is granted by the Alberta Association for Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services. Licensed child care programs and contracted family day home agencies that participate in accreditation start with a self-evaluation process to review their service, identify areas of improvement, create a quality enhancement plan and implement developed strategies to achieve the accreditation standards of excellence. The standards of excellence focus on outcomes related to children, families, staff and the community to support children's optimal early learning and development. Upon completion of the self-evaluation process, programs request a site visit whereby the accreditation agency conducts an on-site assessment to collect evidence, interview staff and complete observations to validate that accreditation standards have been met. The evidence collected is evaluated in accordance with the Alberta Child Care Accreditation Evaluation and Scoring Framework. To maintain accreditation status, programs must submit annual reporting to the accreditation agency. Accredited programs are expected to maintain the standards and achieve their goals in the quality enhancement plan. Programs undergo a scheduled re-accreditation site visit evaluation every three years.

Child care programs participating in accreditation are defined as programs that have applied to the accreditation agency and are accredited or are actively working towards becoming accredited. The measure also excludes those programs and agencies that were accredited during the year but did not have an active licence or contract on March 31, 2017 or programs that withdrew from the accreditation process.

Data is obtained from the accreditation agency and the Child Care Information System. Regional Licensing Officers use this system to maintain current information about the licensing and monitoring of all licensed and approved child care programs, including day care centres and contracted family day home agencies. The result for this measure is based on the number of licensed day care programs and contracted family day home agencies accredited or participating in the accreditation process as of March 31, 2017. The measure is calculated by dividing the sum of all accredited/participating in accreditation licensed day care programs and all accredited/participating in accreditation contracted family day home agencies by the sum of all operational licensed day care programs and all contracted family day home agencies on March 31, 2017.

$$\% = \frac{\text{\# licensed day care programs and contracted family day home agencies accredited or participating in accreditation}}{\text{total \# of operational licensed day care programs and contracted family day home agencies}} \times 100\%$$

1.c Percentage of children and youth with a new child intervention file who did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months

The measure describes the percentage of children and youth with a new child intervention file who did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months. This includes children and youth that are in care and not in care. The measure result is determined by consulting the Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system to assess whether children and youth who opened a file with child intervention in a fiscal year had a previous child intervention file closure (i.e., the conclusion of services from a not in care or in care legal authority) in the last 12 months. Only children and youth whose file closure occurred prior to their 18th birthday are included to determine the result. The new service does not have to be related to the previous reason for service.

Calculation:

$$\% = \frac{\text{\# of children who opened a file with child intervention (never had a file or their involvement was more than 12 months previous) and did not have a previous closure within the last 12 months}}{\text{\# of children who opened a file with child intervention in a fiscal year}} \times 100\%$$

Outcome One: Performance Indicators

1.a Children receiving child intervention services as a percentage of the child population in Alberta:

- **Percentage**
- **Number of children receiving child intervention services**
- **Children in Alberta**

This indicator result is determined by consulting the Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system to determine how many unique children had an open child intervention legal authority (not in care or in care) at any point during the calendar year. As the database is constantly updated, this number may vary over time. For the 2016 calendar year, the frequency was extracted on April 28, 2017. To determine the child population (0-17 years) in Alberta during the calendar year, CANSIM table 051-0001 from Statistics Canada is referenced.

Calculation:

$$\% = \frac{\text{\# of children (0-17) who had an active child intervention legal authority during the calendar year}}{\text{\# of children between the ages 0-17 in Alberta during the calendar year}} \times 100\%$$

The percentage is determined by:

Dividing the number of children who had an active child intervention legal authority during the calendar year (numerator) by the total number of children in Alberta during the calendar year, January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 (denominator).

Outcome Two: Performance Measures

2.a Percentage of Indigenous children in foster care/kinship care who are placed with Indigenous families

This measure looks at the placement of Indigenous children in foster or kinship care homes where the foster or kinship family has an Indigenous background. A foster or kinship care family is determined to be Indigenous if the home is denoted as Indigenous or the caregiver's self-reported racial origin is identified as Indigenous in the Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system. The result is based on the fiscal year April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and derived by dividing the number of in care Indigenous children in foster/kinship care who are placed with Indigenous families by the total number of in care Indigenous children in foster/kinship care placed during the period.

$$\% = \frac{\text{\# of Indigenous children and youth in foster or kinship care who reside with an Indigenous foster or kinship care family}}{\text{\# Indigenous children and youth in foster or kinship care}} \times 100\%$$

Cross-Reference Table

The Key Strategies, Performance Measures, and Performance Indicators within this Annual Report have been adjusted to show sequential numbering. The table below summarizes these adjustments.

		Adjusted Numbering	
Outcome	**2016-19 Human Services Business Plan**	**Outcome**	**2016-17 Children's Services Annual Report**
Key Strategies			
1	1.1	1	1.1
	1.2		*
	1.3		**1.2**
	1.4		*
	1.5		**1.3**
	1.6		*
2	2.1		
	2.2		
	2.3		*
	2.4		
	2.5		
3	**3.1**	2	**2.1**
	3.2		**2.2**
	3.3		*
	3.4		**2.3**+
	3.5		*
Performance Measures			
1	1.a	1	*
	1.b		**1.a**
	1.c		*
	1.d		**1.b**
	1.e		**1.c**
2	2.a		*
	2.b		**
	2.c		
	2.d		*
	2.e		
3	3.a	2	***
	3.b		**2.a**
Performance Indicators			
1	1.a	1	*
	1.b		**1.a**
2	2.a		*
	2.b		

+ Shared Services across Community and Social Services and Children's Services
* Reported in the 2016-17 Ministry of Community and Social Services Annual Report
** Reported in the 2016-17 Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General Annual Report
*** Reported in the 2016-17 Ministry of Labour Annual Report